

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) A method for detecting endotoxin, comprising the steps:
 - a) incubating a sample with an isolated p12 or p12-similar bacteriophage tail protein, and
 - b) detecting endotoxin bonded to said bacteriophage tail protein, in the presence of divalent cations.
2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising after step a) and prior to step b) the additional step of:
 - a') separating a bacteriophage tail protein-endotoxin complex from the sample.
3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein detection comprises spectroscopic methods.
4. (Previously presented) A method for removing endotoxin from a sample, comprising the steps:
 - a) incubating a sample with or bringing a sample in contact with an isolated p12 or p12-similar bacteriophage tail protein which is immobilised on a permanent carrier, non-specifically or directed, in the presence of bivalent ions,
 - b) separating bacteriophage tail protein-endotoxin complex from the sample
wherein the permanent carrier comprises filtration media, glass particles, magnetic particles, agarose particles, sedimentation materials or filling materials for chromatography columns.
5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein steps a) and b) are implemented in a chromatography column throughflow method.

6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, the bacteriophage tail proteins being immobilised on the permanent carrier via coupling groups.
8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, the coupling group being a lectin, receptor or anticalin.
9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the coupling group comprises streptavidin or avidin and the bacteriophage tail proteins are coupled with biotin or a Strep-tag.
10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, the bacteriophage tail proteins are immobilised on the permanent carrier covalently via chemical bonds.
11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage tail protein comprises a Strep-tag or a His-tag.
12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tag comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 5, 6 or 7.
13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the bacteriophage tail protein is p12 protein of phage T4 and comprises a Strep-tag or a His-tag.
14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the bivalent cations are Ca²⁺ in the range of 0.1 µM to 10 mM.
15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein detecting comprises detecting ~~fluorescence-marked endotoxin being displaced~~displacement of a fluorescence-marked endotoxin from said bacteriophage tail protein of step a).
16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the bacteriophage tail protein comprises a Strep-tag or a His-tag.
17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the tag comprises an amino acid sequence according to SEQ ID NO. 5, 6 or 7.

18. (Previously presented) The method according claim 4, wherein the bacteriophage tail protein is p12 protein of phage T4 and comprises a Strep-tag or His-tag.